

# NATRC Region 2



Spring/Summer  
2016

## 2016 Ride Schedule

**Jan. 15-17:** STAR Competitive Trail Ride in Queens Creek, Ariz.

**Feb. 19-20:** NATRC National Convention in Reno, Nev.

**Apr. 1-3:** M&M Competitive Trail Ride in Fountain Hills, Ariz.

**Apr. 22-24:** Spring Fling Competitive Trail Ride in Temecula, Calif.

**Oct. 7-9:** RAHA Competitive Trail Ride in San Diego County, Calif. (tentative)

**Oct. 21-23:** Horse Nuts Stables Competitive Trail Ride in Kingman, Ariz.

**Nov. 4-6:** Sage Hill Competitive Trail Ride in Santa Maria, Calif. (tentative)

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year is half over and we have had four nice rides. Thank you to our ride managers for putting them on. They were small, but enjoyable. So far, we only have about five riders qualified for awards. There is still time to ride!

Next we have at least two rides: RAHA and Horse Nuts, and possibly a third, in California. We are working on the details.

The new website is up and running. Visit it at [natrc2.org](http://natrc2.org). I think you will like the new layout.

Mary Jo and Bob Insko will be going to Denver for the National Board of Directors meeting in July.



There is a lot of business and changes in the works, so this makes for a busy weekend.

Do you have any desire to be on the Region 2 board of directors? We need to be thinking about our elections coming up in October. We need new officers to replace those who may choose not to continue.

Stay cool this summer and be safe!

— Beni & Spyder ★



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## Confessions of a First-Timer

By Curtis Clark, PhD

The worst part was the first night. I slept on a cot by my truck, and every time I drifted off to sleep, Buddy whinnied.

Buddy is an easy-going horse. Although he has some dark secrets in his past (and the scars to prove it), he generally likes to get along. But he didn't get the memo, and I hadn't sent him the agenda, so he really didn't know what to expect. The other horses weren't telling him, and all he was getting out of me was "Buddy, I'm still here."

The best part was pretty much everything else.

I've been wanting to go on a NATRC ride from the moment I learned how it differed from ACTHA. Because of trailer problems and scheduling problems, the first ride I could attend was the Share the Trails ride in Descanso. Buddy and I had been training in the foothills of the east San Gabriel Mountains. I read up on horse camping (I had never done it before, and that first night, Buddy let me know that he hadn't, either). I actually read through the rulebook. It was time.

After an uneventful trip south in heavy Friday traffic, made worse by accidents, we arrived at the site, about two-and-a-half hours later than we had planned. It was a sea of trailers, like what I would imagine for the annual meeting of the Good Sam Club, only with horses. These were AERC endurance riders. My mission was to find the NATRC camp.

As I finished the second circuit, Mary Jo Malone (as I learned later) appeared. "Are you looking for NATRC? Are you Curtis?" She helped me find a site, and introduced me to Sherrie and Elvis Bray, and Bob and Margie Insko. Sherrie and

Elvis helped me find an ant-free area and set up my water bucket, and their traveling companion, Steven, hauled water for it.

Once I had Buddy's camp set up (I worried about mine later), I went to the potluck and the briefing meeting. It would have been somewhat overwhelming, but everyone was friendly and helpful.

To me, the horsemanship judge and the vet are what make a NATRC event so much more than a long ride in the park. One would expect a judge to be, well, judgmental, but Lory Walls wanted everyone to do their best. And with Dr. Kim Sergeant watching over Buddy's health during the ride, I didn't have to worry about his being stoic and not letting me know he was in trouble.

The morning of the ride dawned clear and cold. We ate breakfast and fixed up sack lunches, and I learned there is no danger of starvation on a NATRC ride. Buddy had been watching the endurance horses go out all morning, so he figured he needed to go wherever they were going. He danced around at the start line until I dismounted.

We did our famous offside mount (if the rules ever *require* a near side mount, we're in trouble), got our time, and we were off...on our first off-course of the day.

After some yelling by the people at the start, we fixed that, and headed out.

"Buddy, you don't even know where you're going."

"Going fast!"

We caught up with the first rider ahead of us.

"Horse! I want to be with that other horse!"

"Okay, Buddy, we've caught up."

"I want to be in the lead!"

We passed the next two horses in similar style, and then made our second off-course, which allowed the three horses we had passed to get ahead of us again. Fortunately by then, Buddy had settled in, and although we caught up with them at P&Rs and at lunch,

we never passed them again.

Crossing Hwy. 79 was uneventful, thanks to the traffic spotters; Buddy is an old hand at asphalt. Only later did we learn that it was judged.

The river crossing was a welcome relief—welcome because of the shade, and a relief that Buddy drank a lot, so he was already mellow for the first P&R.

Most of the trail to the river crossing was chaparral, but after the crossing, there was more oak woodland mixed with grassy areas. There was still green grass at the lunch stop, which Buddy ate as I ate my sandwich.

The judge and I both wanted me to pin a clothespin with flagging tape to a tree branch, but Buddy had seen other horses leave by way of a long hill trail, and he wanted to follow. We did get the branch pinned, and then trotted and cantered up the hill into an area of big trees and big meadows.

Back across the river, back across the highway, and to the second P&R, out in the blazing sun. That's when I realized that the riders have the easy jobs, and the volunteers carry the heavy loads. We retraced part of the morning trail and then did a new segment that probably had the best obstacles of the course, had the judge wanted to ride out to them. And then we were at the two mile marker, with plenty of time to chill. Leaving two-mile, we took our third and last off-course, onto a narrow trail, which I soon realized was not the right one, but which led into a beautiful thicket of willows and cattails.

As we finished the last two miles on the same trail we had started on, going the opposite direction with the shift of light into afternoon made it seem unfamiliar. We passed the chalk finish line of the AERC fifty-milers, got our time, and headed back to camp.

Some random things I learned: Buddy will roll paste electrolyte on his tongue and spit it out. You can actually change clothes in the "changing room" of a two-horse slant. The "sponge-on-a-string" really works, and does double duty removing the cement of sweat and trail dust at the end of the ride. Six hours in the sun lasts for six hours: always use more sunscreen than you think you need. Fifty-mile endurance riders sincerely appreciate your getting out of their way. Oh, and pay attention to where the other NATRC riders are going.

Oh, yeah. The second night, Buddy knew the agenda. ★



Photo by Alex Katka

## Dismounted: Karen Kafka

By Elvis Bray

*Have you ever wondered what other NATRC riders do when they are not in the saddle? **Dismounted** will give you a peek into the lives of some of our Region 2 members.*

If you have participated in NATRC rides in Region 2 very long, you probably know Karen Kafka. She's been competing in NATRC for the past 20 years and has logged over 2,250 miles on a horse or mule in every region in the country.

Karen grew up in Scottsdale, Ariz. Her father supported her horse addiction at a young age and bought her an 18-year-old Polish Arabian named Nartis. Karen rode him with the Scottsdale Pony Club in dressage, western pleasure and on the trails.

I met Karen about 10 years ago when she was riding a mule at a NATRC ride at Estrella Park, Ariz. It was obvious to me she was no stranger to the equestrian world, and loved the sport. She had a smile on her face and a carefree attitude I still attribute to her every time I see her. There's nothing false or pretentious about Karen, and she's always having fun.

Once, I was in a desert saddlery hanging around the counter while my wife shopped. A young girl about 20 years old stood behind the counter and asked me, "What type of riding do



you do?" I told her I just ride trails, but my wife competes in NATRC. She said, "Oh, then you know Karen Kafka." When I said I knew her, she said, "Karen's wonderful. She taught me everything I know about horses."

After knowing Karen for many years, I think that statement defines the woman.

Karen started out as a schoolteacher teaching K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. But her love of horses brought her back to the equestrian world fulltime as a riding instructor, helping out with Pony Club, summer camps, and as a riding instructor for Chandler/Gilbert Community College.

She met her husband, Steve, when he came to take riding lessons from her. He has helped support her equine addiction ever since. You will find Steve at some of the NATRC events volunteer-ing, especially at the S.T.A.R. NATRC Ride held at San Tan Regional Park in Queen Creek, Ariz. Karen hosts every January.

If you see Karen at a ride, she will normally have several young ladies with her. She reminds me of a mother hen with her chicks as she rides down the trail, always mentoring and teaching them about their horse, the sport of NATRC, or giving instructions about riding. She is a natural born teacher and has impacted many young lives in ways she may never truly appreciate.

These young students will someday tell their children and grandchildren about the wonderful woman who taught them about horses, as they pass that knowledge on to the next generation.

Karen has two sons who competed with her in NATRC. They completed every ride in Region 2 in 2002. She still claims that was the best year she ever spent in the saddle.

I believe Karen loses points during NATRC rides by mentoring because she is concentrating on her students. Her big, generous heart understands that sharing her love of horses with young people is much more important than ribbons and awards. She has her priorities right.

Karen's most embarrassing moment on a horse was when she delivered Santa Claus to school in a one-horse open sleigh for a Christmas program. Loud music spooked the pony after Santa had gotten out, and the horse, bolted tearing up the cart and throwing Karen out in front of her students. Even though she was banged up physically, her pride sustained the most damage.

So what does Karen do when she is dismounted? She's looking for another horse or mule to train, a child to teach, or another ride to ride. In other words, Karen Kafka is never far from the saddle. Horses and mules are her passion. Karen helps keep the sport of NATRC alive and well by introducing new riders.

She has two goals for NATRC this year. One is to ride at least two rides in every region of the country, and the other is to win a National Championship. Good luck, Karen. We will be cheering you on! ★

### Regional Board of Directors:

Beni DeMattei	President <a href="mailto:beni2406@hotmail.com">beni2406@hotmail.com</a> (term exp. 12/2017)
Carrie Garufis	Vice President <a href="mailto:garufis@aol.com">garufis@aol.com</a> (term exp. 12/2018)
LoryWalls	Treasurer <a href="mailto:lorywalls@cox.net">lorywalls@cox.net</a> (term exp. 12/2016)
Mary Jo Malone	Secretary <a href="mailto:maryjomalone@msn.com">maryjomalone@msn.com</a> (term exp. 12/2016)
Audrey Pavia	Director <a href="mailto:audrey@audreypavia.com">audrey@audreypavia.com</a> (term exp. 12/2016)
Bob Insko	Director <a href="mailto:rminsko@gmail.com">rminsko@gmail.com</a> (term exp. 12/2018)
Sherrie Bray	Director <a href="mailto:lsbray@cox.net">lsbray@cox.net</a> (term exp. 12/2018)

### Region 2 National Board of Directors representatives:

Bob Insko [insko@sbcglobal.net](mailto:insko@sbcglobal.net) (term exp. 12/2018)  
Mary Jo Malone [maryjomalone@msn.com](mailto:maryjomalone@msn.com) (term exp. 12/2016)  
Alternate: Beni DeMattei [beni2406@hotmail.com](mailto:beni2406@hotmail.com) (term exp. 12/2017)

## Letter from a Rider

*Dear Ride Manager:  
My only regret for the Spring Fling CTR in Temecula was that I didn't ride both days.*

*Thank you for the great ride. I've ridden tons of NATRC rides, and I have never been at a ride that had such a wonderful, inviting environment. All of the people helping to run the ride were inviting and kind. Both judges were helpful, kind, and not intimidating.*

*I've ridden in several regions, been to super fancy rides, but yours by far was the best.*

*Thank you for the really fun ride. Can't wait to do it again! Will even bring my hubby! And thank you for harboring an environment that is so helpful in helping the sport grow.*

—Barbara ★



Photo by Mary Jo Malone

## Upcoming Events

**July 15-16:** National Board of Directors Meeting, in Denver, Colo.

**Aug. 13:** Regional Board of Directors meeting at Mount Palomar Winery, in Temecula, Calif. *(All members welcome!)*

## Maintain Your Horse's Mouth

*From the American Association of Equine Practitioners.*

Routine dental care is essential to your horse's in health. Periodic examinations and regular maintenance, such as floating, are especially necessary today for a number of reasons:

- \* We have modified the horse's diet and eating patterns through domestication and confinement.
- \* We demand more from our performance horses, beginning at a younger age, than ever before.
- \* We often select breeding animals without regard to dental considerations.

Proper dental care has its rewards. Your horse will be more comfortable, will utilize feed more efficiently, may perform better, and may even live longer.

### The Horse's Mouth

Horses evolved as grazing animals, and their teeth are perfectly adapted for that purpose. The forward teeth, known as incisors, function to shear off forage. The cheek teeth, including the molars and premolars with their wide, flat, grveled surfaces, easily grind the feed to a mash before it is swallowed.

Like humans, horses get two sets of teeth in their lifetime. The baby teeth, also called deciduous teeth, are temporary. The first deciduous incisors may erupt before the foal is born. The last baby teeth come in when the horse is about 8 months of age. These teeth begin to be replaced by adult teeth around age 2 1/2. By age 5, most horses have their full complement of permanent teeth. An adult male horse has 40 permanent teeth. A mare may have between 36-40, because mares are less likely to have canine (bridle) teeth.

### Recognizing Problems

Horses with dental problems may show obvious signs, such as pain or irritation, or they may show no noticeable signs at all. That is due to the fact that some horses simply adapt to their discomfort. For this reason, periodic dental examinations are essential. Indicators of dental

problems include:

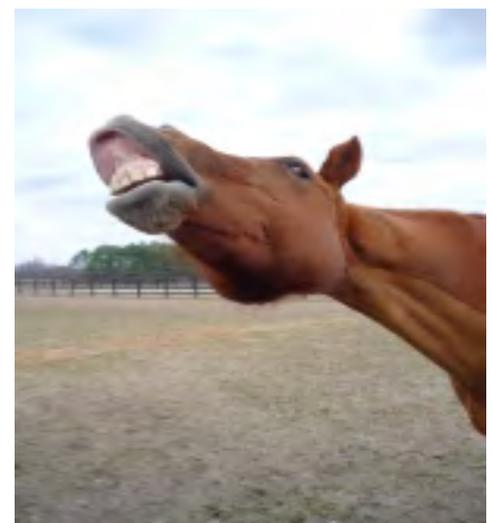
- \* Loss of feed from mouth while eating, difficulty with chewing, or excessive salivation
- \* Loss of body condition
- \* Large or undigested feed particles (long stems or whole grain) in manure
- \* Head tilting or tossing, bit chewing, tongue lolling, fighting the bit, or resisting bridling
- \* Poor performance, such as lugging on the bridle, failing to turn or stop, even bucking
- \* Foul odor from mouth or nostrils, or traces of blood from the mouth
- \* Nasal discharge or swelling of the face, jaw, or mouth tissues

Oral exams should be an essential part of an annual physical examination by a veterinarian. Every dental exam provides the opportunity to perform routine preventative dental maintenance. The end result is a healthier, more comfortable horse.

### Preventative Maintenance

An oral examination should be an essential part of an annual physical examination by a veterinarian. Every dental exam provides the opportunity to perform routine preventative dental maintenance. The end result is a healthier, more comfortable horse.

Routine maintenance of a horse's teeth has been historically referred to as "floating." Floating removes the sharp enamel points. Occlusal equilibration is the term now used to describe smoothing enamel points, correcting malocclusion, balancing the dental arcades and correcting other dental problems. A complete oral examination should precede any dental procedures.



When turned out on pasture, horses graze almost continuously, picking up dirt and grit in the process. This, plus the silicate in grass, wears down the teeth. Stabled horses, however, may not give their teeth the same workout. Feedings are more apt to be scheduled, not continuous, and include processed grains and hays. Softer feeds require less chewing. This may allow the horse's teeth to become excessively long or to wear unevenly. Adult teeth erupt throughout life and are worn down by chewing.

Because the horse's lower rows of cheek teeth are closer together than the upper rows of cheek teeth and the horse chews with a sideways motion, sharp points form along the edges of the cheek teeth. Points form on the cheek side of the upper teeth and tongue side of the lower teeth. These points should be smoothed to prevent damage and ulceration of the cheeks and tongue.

Routine examination and correction is especially important in horses that are missing teeth or whose teeth are not wearing properly because of misalignment. For example, if the front or last cheek teeth are out of alignment, hooks can form. Untreated, these hooks can become long or sharp enough to damage soft tissue. Short hooks or other malocclusions may be corrected with hand instruments. Tall malocclusions may be corrected with motorized instruments. Motorized instruments have replaced molar cutters and chisels because there is less chance of tooth damage.

Tall malocclusions may require several treatments spread over 12 to 18 months.

### Wolf Teeth

Wolf teeth are very small teeth located in front of the second premolar. They rarely appear in the lower jaw. A horse may have one to four, or no wolf teeth.



Nottingham Vet School

While not all wolf teeth are troublesome, veterinarians routinely remove them to prevent pain or bit interference.

### The Age Factor

The age of a horse affects the degree of attention and frequency of dental care required. Consider these points:

- \* Foals should be examined shortly after birth and periodically during the first year to diagnose and correct congenital dental abnormalities (existing from birth).

- \* Yearlings have been found to have enamel points sharp enough to damage cheek and tongue tissue. Floating will make them more comfortable.

- \* Horses going into training for the first time, especially 2- and 3-year-olds, need a comprehensive dental check-up. Teeth should be floated to remove any sharp points and checked for retained caps. Caps should be removed if they have not been shed. This should be done before training begins to prevent training problems related to sharp teeth.

- \* Horses aged 2 to 5 years may require more frequent dental exams than older horses. Deciduous teeth tend to be softer than permanent teeth and may develop sharp enamel points more quickly. Also, there is an extraordinary amount of dental maturation during this period. Twenty-four teeth will be shed and replaced by 36 to 40 adult teeth. To prevent maleruption problems, twice-a-year examinations are appropriate for young horses from birth to 5 years of age.

- \* Mature horses should get a thorough dental examination at least annually to maintain correct dental alignment and to diagnose dental problems as early as possible.

- \* Senior horses (17 years old or older) are at increased risk for developing periodontal disease. This painful disease must be diagnosed early for a successful treatment. Also, it is important to maintain a correct bite plane during a horse's teens in order to ensure a functional grinding surface beyond 20 years of age. Beyond the age of 20, the tooth excessively, and dental alignment correction may be impossible.

- \* Horses over 20 years of age should



receive a dental evaluation and nutritional counseling at least annually to maintain their conditioning and quality of life.

With routine dental care, many horses will maintain a functional dentition into their third and fourth decades of life.

### Greater Awareness

- \* If a horse starts behaving abnormally, dental problems should be considered as a potential cause.

- \* Abnormalities should be corrected and teeth should be floated and maintained as indicated.

- \* Wolf teeth are routinely extracted from performance horses to prevent interference with the bit and its associated pain.

- \* Sedatives, local anesthetics, and analgesics can relax the horse and keep it more comfortable during floating and other dental procedures. Such drugs should be administered only by a veterinarian.

- \* Most equine dental procedures, including basic floating, irreversibly change the horse's teeth and therefore are most appropriately performed by a veterinarian.

- \* If your equine practitioner finds a loose tooth, he or she may extract it. This may reduce the chance of infection or other problems.

- \* Canine teeth, usually present in mature geldings and stallions, may be rounded and smoothed. This procedure is performed to prevent interference with the bit and to reduce the possibility of injury to the horse, the handler and other horses pastured or stabled with the horse.

- \* Depending upon the condition of your horse's teeth, more than one visit from your equine practitioner may be required to get the mouth in prime working order.

- \* It is important to catch dental problems early. Waiting too long may increase the difficulty of correcting

Equine Permanent (Adult Teeth)	
1st incisors (centrals)	2½ yrs
2nd incisors (intermediates)	3½ yrs
3rd incisors (corners)	4½ yrs
Canines (bridle)	4-5 yrs
Wolf teeth (1st premolars)	5-6 mos
2nd premolars (1st cheek teeth)	2½ yrs
3rd premolars (2nd cheek teeth)	3 yrs
4th premolars (3rd cheek teeth)	4 yrs
1st molars (4th cheek teeth)	9-12 mos
2nd molars (5th cheek teeth)	2 yrs
3rd molars (6th cheek teeth)	3½-4 yrs

certain conditions or may even make correction impossible.

### Serious Dental Ailments

Serious dental conditions can develop, such as infections of the teeth and gums, extremely long hooks or overgrowths on the cheek teeth, and lost or fractured teeth. These conditions may require advanced dental care and/or extraction by a qualified veterinarian. Your equine practitioner can recommend the best treatment or refer your horse to a dental specialist, if indicated. ★



### Free Membership!

NATRC membership is free in 2016 for first-time joiners. This is a great way to get new riders involved in our sport. Tell your friends!

### NATRC Needs Your Help!

We want our sport to grow, and the way to do that is through the support of our members.

Here are some steps you can take to make sure NATRC stays alive and healthy, and is here for generations to come.

*\*Be involved.* The most important way to help NATRC is to participate. Enter rides! Without competitors, we have no sport.

*\*Volunteer.* If you can't ride because your horse is laid up, you didn't have time to condition or you just aren't in the mood, offer to help out at a ride. Rides can't happen without volunteers. We need everything from judge's scribes to P&R teams. Contact the ride manager to see what she needs.

*\*Use social media.* NATRC has a presence on Facebook and Twitter. Like our "NATRC Region 2" Facebook page and get involved in the conversation. On Twitter, follow us at NATRC2.

*\*Bring friends.* Convince your trail-riding friends to give NATRC a try. We need new riders so the sport will grow. Many rides offer discounts to first-time riders and can help mentor novices.

*\*Shop and search.* You can help NATRC raise much-needed funds by always using SmileAmazon.com when you're shopping online and GoodSearch.com when you're searching the Web. Choose NATRC Region 2 as your charity.



### What Judges Want

*Knowing what the judges are looking for on a ride can make a big difference in your score. The following excerpt from the national club website, NATRC.org, describes what veterinary judges are looking for.*

Veterinary judges, who are doctors of veterinary medicine, evaluate the horse's condition, soundness, and trail ability/manners. Condition or stamina of a horse is judged by recognizing the signs of fatigue and then scoring the varying degrees on each horse. Condition is evaluated before, during, and after the ride for proper comparison.

**\* Pulse.** Pulse, or heartbeats per minute, is a standard measure of physiological status. In a well conditioned horse, the pulse should return to 48 or less following a 10 minute rest or recovery period. NATRC guidelines score 1 point for each 4 beats above 48 after 10 minutes.

**\* Respiration.** Respiration can be a measure of fatigue, but it is also an indicator of body heat. If a horse's temperature becomes elevated, the respiration increases in an effort to blow off excess heat. Normal recovery is 24 breaths per minute or less. Each 4 breaths/minute above 36 scores 1 point against the horse.

**\* Dehydration.** Dehydration, or water loss through sweat, panting, urine and feces, is a major detriment to trail horses. The veterinary judge evaluates this in several ways. One is to pinch the skin on the point of the shoulder. Normally this pinched up fold of skin will go down immediately when released. As the horse becomes more dehydrated, the fold will remain longer, sometimes several seconds. Another criterion reflects how dehydration affects blood circulation. The gums, which are mucous membranes, are good indicators. Normal gums are moist and pink, varying in degree with each horse. As the horse becomes fatigued or dehydrated, the gums may dry out with the color becoming pale, blanched, or more severely, muddy, jaundiced, or blue (cyanotic). Capillary refill is measured by the time required



Photo by Mike Solomon

for the color to return after pressing on the gums with the thumb. Normal time is 1 or 2 seconds, and in stressed horses, it may become several or many more seconds.

\* **Fatigue.** Fatigue can be judged by changes in the horse's attitude: alertness of the eyes, ears, facial expressions, actions such as nickering, interest in surroundings, changes in the gait from the normal springy long strides to the fatigued, short choppy, plodding, and stumbling steps and the unwillingness, to go on.

The digestive system is evaluated by monitoring the horse's appetite, gut sounds, and desire to drink. A fatigued horse shunts blood away from the gut to other areas of the body. The result of this is to reduce gut motility and sounds. Absent gut sounds may indicate fatigue or impending colic. Exhausted horses will also lack control of the rectal sphincter muscle, which may be flaccid and open. These are scored subjectively according to the judge's opinion of the severity.

Other symptoms of fatigue are muscle tremors or synchronous diaphragmatic flutter (thumps), seen as a rhythmic twitch in the flank; and a change in the character of sweat from normal watery to thick, sticky, and strong smelling to even stopping. A dry horse that should be sweating is a danger signal.

Many judges may use additional factors for judging condition depending upon their own experience and observations. Riders should learn to evaluate their own horses, especially when working at home on strenuous rides. Never stress your horse beyond the guidelines mentioned.

\* **Soundness.** Soundness is judged by examining and by watching the horse move. Obvious faults are lameness, saddle and girth sores, sore back muscles, chafed lips from the bit,

the horse. Excessively high action, short and choppy steps, or sluggish, inconsistent strides are faulted. Winging, padding, forging, interfering and scalping are gait defects that are detrimental to efficient travel. Chronic stumbling or too low action may be faulted. Way of Going is evaluated in hand and under saddle on the trail.

\* **Trail Ability and Manners.**

Manners are subjectively judged as to the horse's suitability as a trail horse. Safety is paramount. The horse should allow you to mount safely under a variety of trail conditions. Spooky horses that repeatedly shy on the trail are unsafe and not pleasurable to ride. Head tossing, fighting the bit, response to rider aids and overall control on the trail are some of the factors judged. In-camp behavior is also judged. Poor tying behavior, pawing, constantly calling stable mates (buddying), being bam sour or cold backed, kicking, etc. are all vices that cause a loss of points on the scorecard. The good trail horse should stand and allow examination of feet, legs, eyes, teeth, gums, etc. A horse that cannot be examined can hardly be fairly placed. ★



Photo by Jamie Dieterich



Photo by Andy Klamm

other tack injuries, defects of vision, and blemishes and wounds that develop on the ride. In general, the scores against a horse are relative to changes observed during the course of the ride, from check in to check out at the judge's discretion. However, a horse that checks in with a fault may be scored down relative to horses without faults even though the fault does not worsen on the ride. This is subjective and is the opinion of the judges.

\* **Way of Going.** Way of Going is the judge's opinion of how your horse moves as a trail horse. Ideally we want a sure footed, free moving, long, easy striding gait, easy to ride yet energy efficient to

Many people have sighed for the "good old days" and regretted the "passing of the horse." But today, when only those who like horses own them, it is a far better time for horses. — C.W. Anderson



**NATRC Region 2**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting**  
**February 18, 2016**

Welcome and Introduction:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm at Reno NV.
- Board members: Beni DeMattei, Mary Jo Malone, Sherrie Bray, Lory Walls, Bob Insko, with Carrie Garufis & Audrey Pavia by phone. Members absent: none
- Guests present – Margie Insko

Secretary Report: submitted by Mary Jo Malone

- Minutes of the November 21, 2015 Board of Directors meeting held at the Orange, CA.
  - Move to accept by Bob Insko; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherrie Bray; all approved with Lory Walls abstaining.

Treasurer's Report: presented by Lory Walls – for 9/11/15 – 2/18/16 and 12/31 year-end reports for 2015, 2014 & 2013

- Ride fees and membership fees down from 2014.
- Income supplemented by:
  - Corporate donation by the Bob Insko's employer (\$1,000) and personal donation by Carrie Garufis (\$100)
  - Donation of 2015 National Board of Directors reimbursement by Beni DeMattei.
- Move to accept by Sherrie Bray; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Insko; all approved

National Board of Directors Report: Beni DeMattei and Mary Jo Malone

- Preliminary Discussion of Proposed Rule Changes to be considered for 2016, to be voted on by the NBOD at their November board meeting.
- **1. Addition of a Non-Competing Adult Supporting Membership**
  - **SECTION 1 – GENERAL – A. Membership**
    - 1. Any person interested in the purposes of this organization may be eligible for membership upon proper application and payment of the required dues.
      - a. Yearly Membership
        - (1) Adult Membership: Any person 18 years of age or over.
        - (2) Junior Membership: Any person under the age of 18 as of the beginning of the ride year.
        - (3) Family Membership: A household of one or two adults and children under the age of 18 as of January 1.
        - (4) Associate Membership: Any firm, partnership, group, or any other business sufficiently interested in the promotion of the horse and horse-back riding, upon proper application and the annual payment of dues.
        - (5) Supporting Membership – Any person 18 years of age or over. Not eligible for individual ride awards unless the non-member rider fees are paid at the ride. Not eligible for year end and mileage awards unless Adult membership fee is paid before the end of the ride year.
      - b. Lifetime Membership
        - (1) Single Lifetime Membership: Any person of any age.
        - (2) Family Lifetime Membership: A household of one or two adults at time membership is obtained and any children under the age of 18 as of January 1.
    - 2. Each membership, except lifetime, shall be for a period of twelve months commencing January 1 each year regardless of the month in which payment of dues is received. All membership fees are due on January 1 each year.
    - 3. Each Adult, Supporting, and Single Lifetime Membership is entitled to one vote. Each Family and Family Lifetime Membership is entitled to two votes.
  - Rationale:
    - Older riders who quit competing can easily be lost to NATRC membership. Other members who have joined, even for a year or two, and are not competing may not renew for other reasons, economic, family changes, horse issues, etc. A less expensive membership could encourage them to remain. Suggest \$40.00 for supporting membership.
    - Note: No monies should be returned to the regions for the supporting memberships. No loss would be incurred by NATRC.
  - R2 BOD does not support this change as written. Questions to be addressed:
    - Since this is a voting membership type, they will be able to affect the region. Why doesn't the region have a financial benefit?
    - Will these members be eligible to be on the Regional &/or National Board of Directors?
    - Will these members have the right to buy the Equisure insurance?

- Rationale: The proposed change would better describe the current office procedure as well as emphasize the 7-day post ride time frame to submit ride results.

- **2. Points Distribution Clarification**

- SECTION 9 – AWARDS – C. Point Distribution

- 1. ~~Disqualified or pulled horse and rider receive no points.~~ (Move to 3)
- 1. Points shall be based on the number of starters in a Class according to the Points Distribution Table.
- 2. ~~DO horse and rider receive no points. DO participants are not counted as starters in a ride. DO horses and riders receive no points.~~
- 3. Disqualified or pulled horse and rider receive no points.
- 4. The Open Sweepstakes winner will receive points equal to the highest points awarded in any of the three Open classes. The Novice Sweepstakes winner will receive points equal to the highest points awarded in any of the three Novice classes.
- 5. The Sweepstakes winner will receive points, in addition to other points won for horse, as follows: 3 points for a Type AA ride, 2 points for a Type A ride, one point for a Type B ride.
- 6. Points earned in one class will not be added to points earned in another class by the same horse or rider.

- Rationale: To define how points are assigned and to introduce the points distribution table. Points Distribution Table is located directly following #6 above.

Committee Reports –

- Membership and First Time Competitor – Sherrie Bray – 4 new free memberships, Sherrie to contact; 50%+ drop in membership for Region 2.
- Newsletter “R2 Round Pen” – Audrey Pavia
  - Submit articles for next edition by 3/15
  - Add NBOD to e-mail list
- Resource Development (fund raising) – Lynda Sterns – no report
- Publicity (Facebook, Twitter, other Social Media)– Audrey Pavia
  - What is Region 5 doing that is working for them so well?
- Critiques – Sherrie Bray – 1 positive critique from Horse Nut ride
- Points & RMS – Beni DeMattei - NBOD starting a list of issues to be corrected on RMS
- AHA Report – Bob Insko – no report
- Web Site – Audrey Pavia – need to update ride status

Old Business:

- Annual Award Celebration – Friday 4/1 at M&M ride. Will have a raffle.
- Board meeting location for 2016 – see announcements below
- Ride schedule updates
  - Need to schedule clinics &/or training rides
    - Bob Insko looking into location for Ramona clinic

New Business:

- Election of Officers
  - Motion by Lory Walls to maintain same officers from 2015 to 2016; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Insko; approved by all
- 2016 Ride Schedule
  - April 1-3 – M&M ride, Fountain Hills, AZ
  - April 22-24 – Spring Fling, Temecula, CA
  - June 18 - Share the Trails, Descanso, CA
  - October 7-9 – RAHA, San Diego County (tentative)
  - October 21-23 – Horse Nut Stables, Kingman, AZ
  - November 4-5 – Sage Hill, Santa Maria, CA (tentative)
- Board Meetings – 2016
  - May 14, 2016 - Region 2 Board Meeting, Norco
  - September 10, 2016 - Region 2 Board Meeting, Location TBD
  - December 3, 2016 - Region 2 Board Meeting, Location TBD

Announcements:

- Region 2 will host the 2019 National Convention, tentatively in Reno with AERC
- Next BOD meeting 5/14/16 at Audrey Pavia’s home in Norco CA

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm.

